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BLACK PANTHER™
SINISTER ARE THE SERVANTS OF--
KIBER the CRUEL!
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With the sleekness of a jungle beast, the Prince of Wakanda stalks both the concrete of the city and the undergrowth of the veldt, for when danger lurks he dons the garb of the savage cat from which he gains his name!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE BLACK PANTHER!™

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HE LOOKS LIKE A SUPER-VILLAIN··· HE BEHAVES LIKE A SUPER-VILLAIN··· BUT WHEN THIS INCIDENT IN T'CHALLA'S LIFE IS OVER, YOU'LL RUN FOR THE HILLS WHEN YOU FINALLY GRASP THE TRUE IDENTITY OF--
KIBER THE CRUEL
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN··· I'M BACK IN THIS STRANGE, SILENT PLACE··· SEARCHING··· SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE WHO IS IN GREAT DANGER!
BUT WHO CAN IT BE? WHY MUST I RELIVE THIS NIGHTMARISH EXPERIENCE?!

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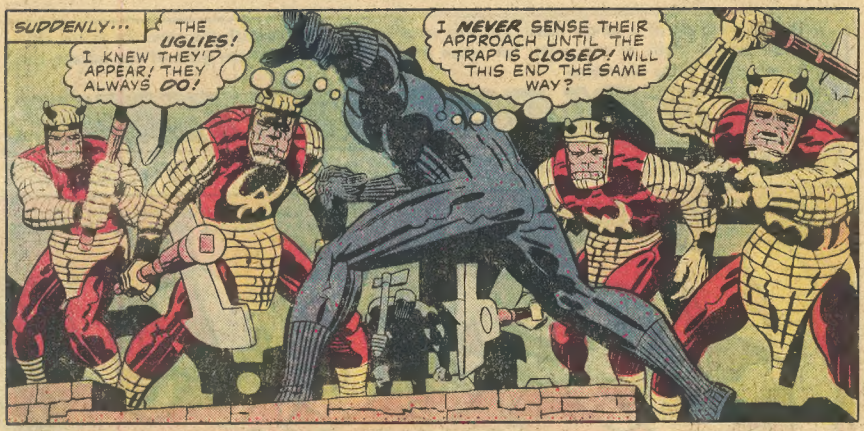
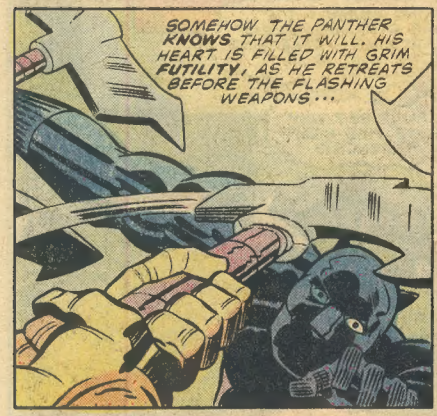
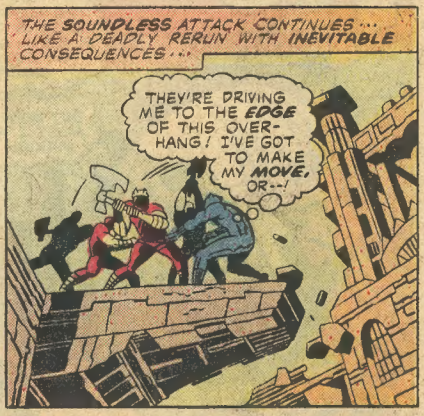
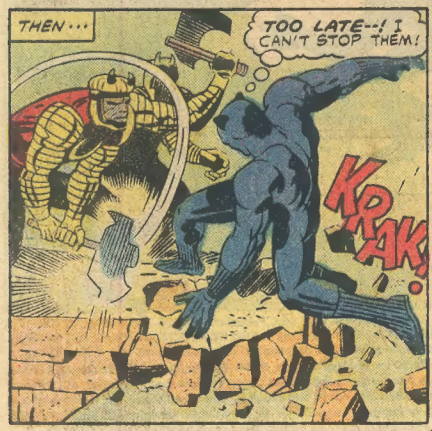
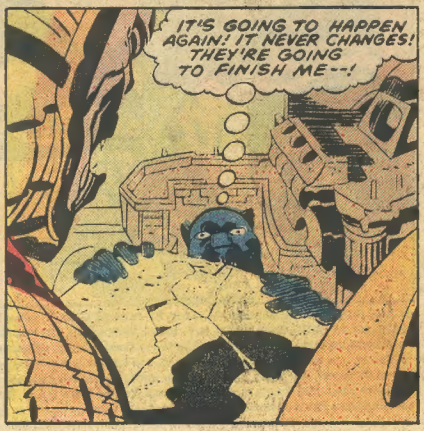
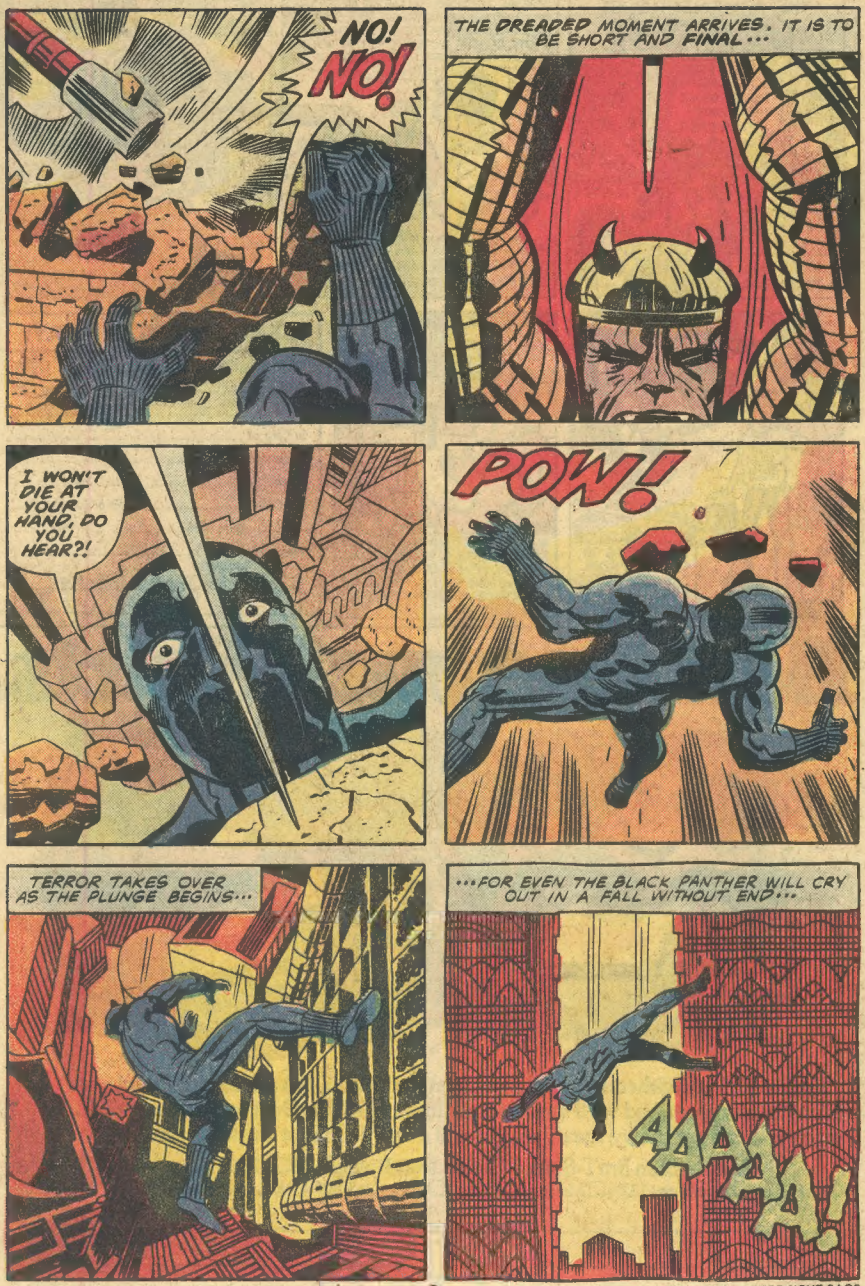

SUDDENLY···
THE UGLIES! I KNEW THEY'D APPEAR! THEY ALWAYS DO!
I NEVER SENSE THEIR APPROACH UNTIL THE TRAP IS CLOSED! WILL THIS END THE SAME WAY?


SOMEHOW THE PANTHER KNOWS THAT IT WILL. HIS HEART IS FILLED WITH GRIM FUTILITY, AS HE RETREATS BEFORE THE FLASHING WEAPONS···


THE SOUNDLESS ATTACK CONTINUES··· LIKE A DEADLY RERUN WITH INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES···
THEY'RE DRIVING ME TO THE EDGE OF THIS OVER-HANG! I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY MOVE, OR--!


THEN···
TOO LATE--! I CAN'T STOP THEM!
KRAK!


IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AGAIN! IT NEVER CHANGES! THEY'RE GOING TO FINISH ME--!


NO!
NO!
THE DREADED MOMENT ARRIVES. IT IS TO BE SHORT AND FINAL...
I WON'T DIE AT YOUR HAND, DO YOU HEAR?!
POW!
TERROR TAKES OVER AS THE PLUNGE BEGINS...
...FOR EVEN THE BLACK PANTHER WILL CRY OUT IN A FALL WITHOUT END...
AAAAAA!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

AAAAAAA!
T'CHALLA! T'CHALLA! WAKE UP!!

PRAISE THE SACRED CULT! IT'S YOU, JOSHUA ITOBO!
JUST RELAX, T'CHALLA!
YOU'VE MERELY HAD ANOTHER NIGHT-MARE!

IT'S THE SAME ONE, JOSHUA! IF I WERE SUPERSTITIOUS I'D REGARD IT AS SOME SORT OF PREMONITION OF DISASTER -- OR DEATH!
THAT'S NONSENSE AND YOU KNOW IT!

I SUPPOSE RECURRING DREAMS ARE COMMON ENOUGH -- BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ONE WHICH DISTURBS ME DEEPLY!
CONFIDENTIALLY, GREAT PANTHER, IT DISTURBS ME, TOO...

ALLOW N'GASSI TO SHARE THIS PROBLEM, T'CHALLA. AFTER ALL, I AM YOUR PERSONAL AIDE.
I WOULDN'T ADD THIS BURDEN TO THOSE YOU ALREADY BEAR, OLD MAN.
HE'S RIGHT. IT'S A QUESTION FOR A DOCTOR.

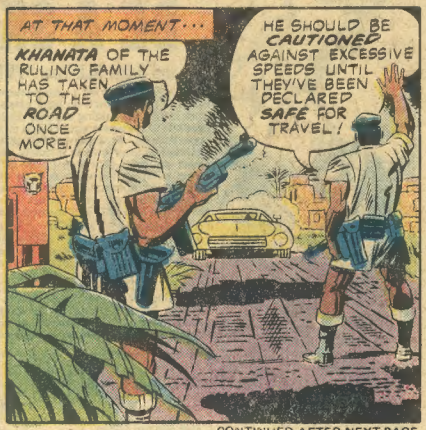
IF YOU BROUGHT THOSE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS FOR MY SIGNATURE, PLEASE PUT THEM ON THE TABLE.
IT'S BEEN THAT BAD, EH? I WAS HOPING YOUR RECOVERY WOULD BE A PERIOD OF HEALING AND REST.
I'LL GET TO THEM SHORTLY.

I'VE HAD NO REST AT ALL! MY BODY IS HEALING--BUT MY BRAIN HAS BECOME A VIOLENT MADHOUSE!
BACK TO BED, T'CHALLA! YOU'RE STILL NOT READY FOR THIS!
LET HIM STAND, N'GASSI! IT WILL DO HIM NO HARM!

IF THE INCIDENT IN THE GREAT VIBRANIUM MOUND IS THE SOURCE OF YOUR TROUBLE, THEN CLOSE YOUR MIND TO IT! SHUT IT OUT!
I CAN'T DO IT! DON'T YOU SEE? I CAN'T SHUT ANYTHING OUT!
GO ON.

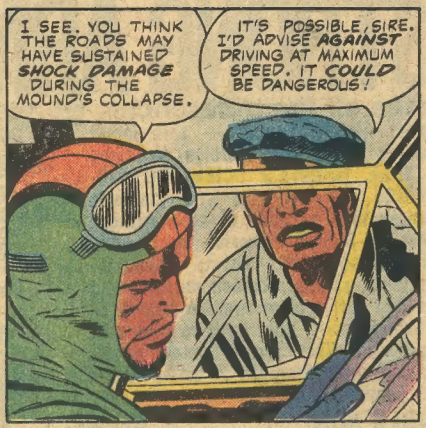
WHEN THEY DUG ME FROM THE BOWELS OF THAT COLLAPSED RUIN, I WAS SUFFERING FROM MORE THAN BODILY INJURY!
I'D ALSO BEEN EXPOSED TO THE EFFECTS OF THAT DEVILISH METAL!

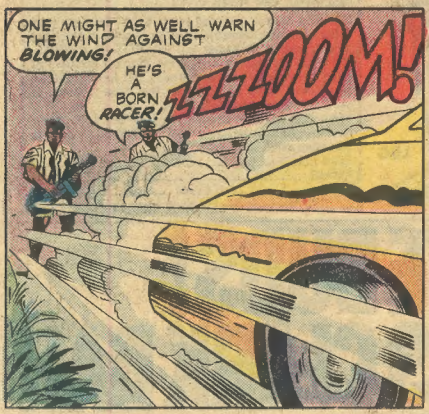
BUT I FEAR THAT YOUR INSTRUMENTS CAN'T COPE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME!
IF THERE ARE TESTS FOR PSYCHIC ABILITIES, THEN I SUGGEST YOU TAKE THAT DIRECTION! MY VISIONS ARE FRIGHTENINGLY REAL!


AT THAT MOMENT...
KHANATA OF THE RULING FAMILY HAS TAKEN TO THE ROAD ONCE MORE.
HE SHOULD BE CAUTIONED AGAINST EXCESSIVE SPEEDS UNTIL THEY'VE BEEN DECLARED SAFE FOR TRAVEL!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

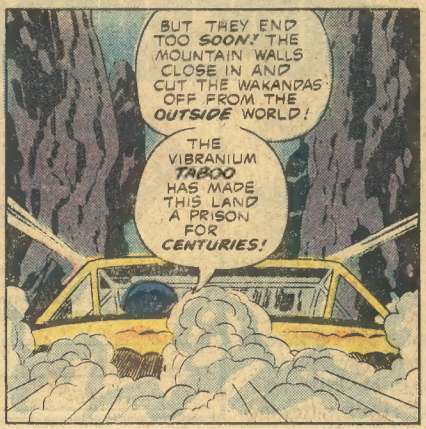
SORRY TO DETAIN YOU, BRAVE KHANATA, BUT ALL OF OUR ROADS ARE--!
THE VIBRANIUM CRISIS IS OVER, IS IT NOT?
WELL, IN SOME WAYS IT IS STILL IN EFFECT!

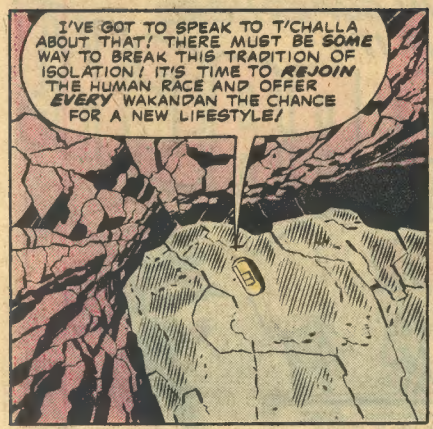

I SEE. YOU THINK THE ROADS MAY HAVE SUSTAINED SHOCK DAMAGE DURING THE MOUND'S COLLAPSE.
IT'S POSSIBLE, SIRE. I'D ADVISE AGAINST DRIVING AT MAXIMUM SPEED. IT COULD BE DANGEROUS!

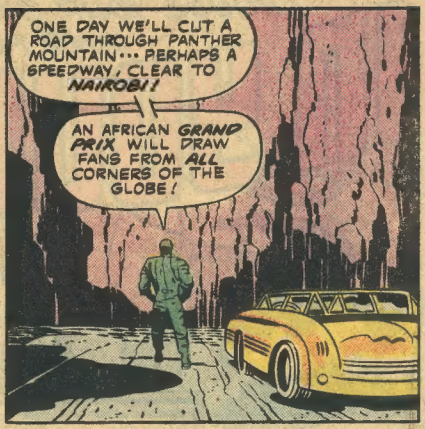

ONE MIGHT AS WELL WARN THE WIND AGAINST BLOWING!
HE'S A BORN RACER!
ZZZOOM!

BLESS THE MILITIA. IT'S FAITHFUL TO A FAULT! BUT I'VE FELT LIKE A CAGED LEOPARD SINCE THE EMERGENCY ENDED!

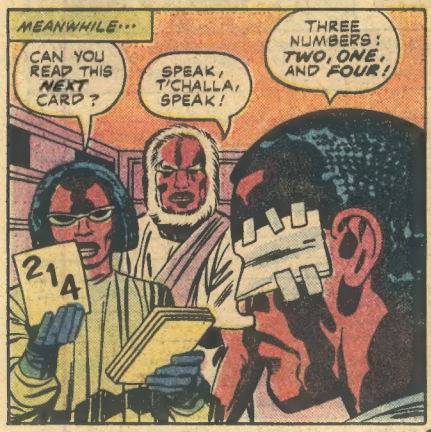
WHILE T'CHALLA HEALS AND THE FAMILY RELAXES, I'LL TAKE TO THE WHEEL AND TEST THESE ROADS MYSELF!
THEY'RE REALLY NOT BAD!


BUT THEY END TOO SOON! THE MOUNTAIN WALLS CLOSE IN AND CUT THE WAKANDAS OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
THE VIBRANIUM TABOO HAS MADE THIS LAND A PRISON FOR CENTURIES!


I'VE GOT TO SPEAK TO T'CHALLA ABOUT THAT! THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO BREAK THIS TRADITION OF ISOLATION! IT'S TIME TO REJOIN THE HUMAN RACE AND OFFER EVERY WAKANDAN THE CHANCE FOR A NEW LIFESTYLE!


ONE DAY WE'LL CUT A ROAD THROUGH PANTHER MOUNTAIN··· PERHAPS A SPEEDWAY, CLEAR TO NAIROBI!
AN AFRICAN GRAND PRIX WILL DRAW FANS FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE GLOBE!

UNTIL THAT DAY COMES, THE MOUNTAIN WILL KEEP US COZY AND VISITOR-PROOF! A LEGION OF MILITANT MOLES COULDN'T MAKE A DENT IN THAT MASS OF ROCK!
WE'RE AS SAFE FROM INTRUSION AS--



INCREDIBLE!
ONCE AGAIN, PANTHER-- THIS LAST CARD--!
IT'S AN ILLUSTRATION OF A MISSILE! I KNOW I'M CORRECT-- DESPITE THIS BLINDFOLD, I CAN SEE IT!

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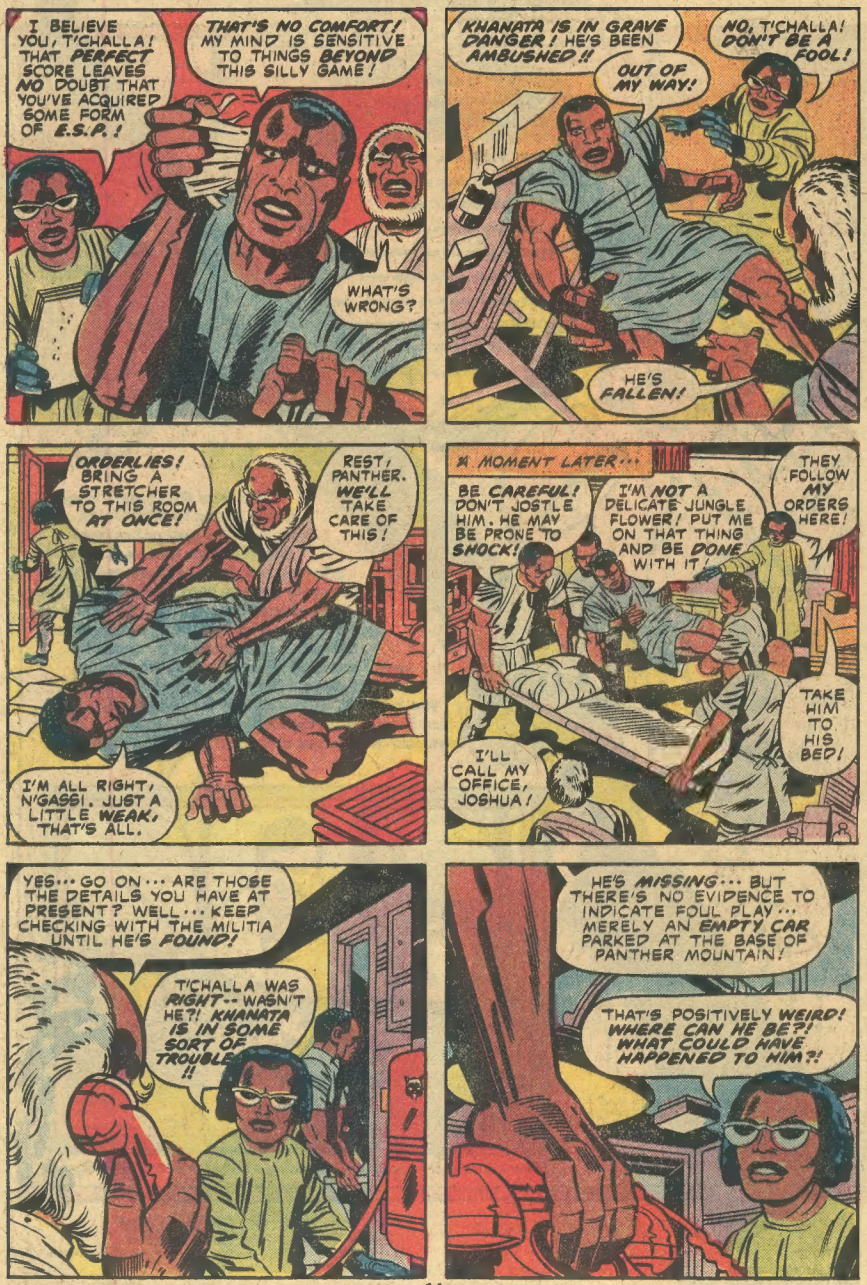
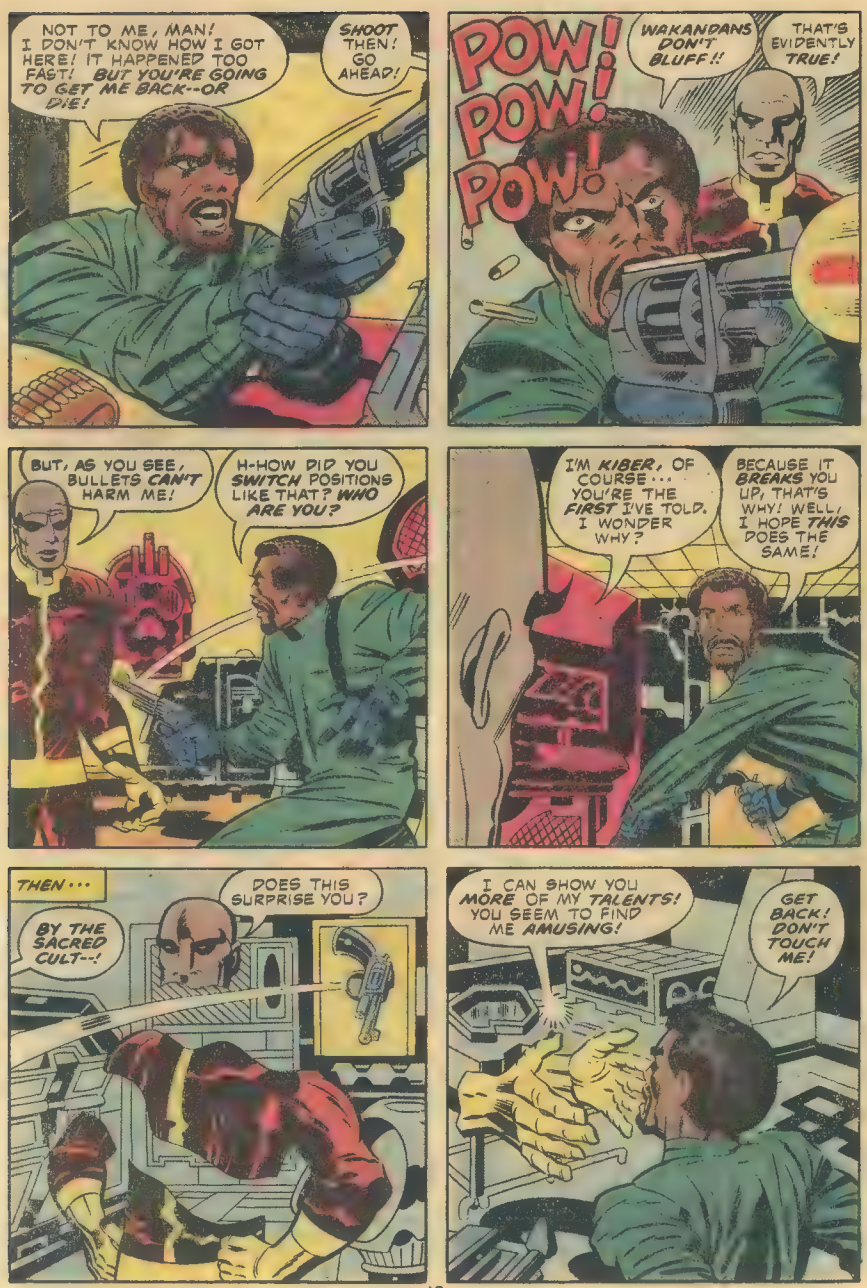

I BELIEVE YOU, T'CHALLA! THAT PERFECT SCORE LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT YOU'VE ACQUIRED SOME FORM OF E.S.P.!
THAT'S NO COMFORT! MY MIND IS SENSITIVE TO THINGS BEYOND THIS SILLY GAME!
WHAT'S WRONG?
KHANATA IS IN GRAVE DANGER! HE'S BEEN AMBUSHED!!
OUT OF MY WAY!
NO, T'CHALLA! DON'T BE A FOOL!
HE'S FALLEN!
ORDERLIES! BRING A STRETCHER TO THIS ROOM AT ONCE!
REST, PANTHER. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!
I'M ALL RIGHT, N'GASSI. JUST A LITTLE WEAK, THAT'S ALL.
A MOMENT LATER...
BE CAREFUL! DON'T JOSTLE HIM. HE MAY BE PRONE TO SHOCK!
I'M NOT A DELICATE JUNGLE FLOWER! PUT ME ON THAT THING AND BE DONE WITH IT.
THEY FOLLOW MY ORDERS HERE!
TAKE HIM TO HIS BED!
I'LL CALL MY OFFICE, JOSHUA!
YES... GO ON... ARE THOSE THE DETAILS YOU HAVE AT PRESENT? WELL... KEEP CHECKING WITH THE MILITIA UNTIL HE'S FOUND!
T'CHALLA WAS RIGHT-- WASN'T HE?! KHANATA IS IN SOME SORT OF TROUBLE!!
HE'S MISSING... BUT THERE'S NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE FOUL PLAY... MERELY AN EMPTY CAR PARKED AT THE BASE OF PANTHER MOUNTAIN!
THAT'S POSITIVELY WEIRD! WHERE CAN HE BE?! WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM?!

IT IS A QUESTION WHICH NOT EVEN KHANATA CAN ANSWER, INSTEAD, IT EARNS HIM BRUTAL TREATMENT AT THE HANDS OF HIS CAPTORS...
KRAK!
SPEAK ONLY WHEN I ADDRESS YOU!
IT'LL TAKE A LOT MORE THAN THAT INTIMIDATE ME! I'M A WAKANDAN! AND WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF GIVING AS GOOD AS WE GET!
THREATS ARE FUTILE HERE! THESE WEAPONS DID LITTLE TO PROTECT THEIR OWNERS!
YOU SHALL JOIN THEM SOON!
I SEE... WELL, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND HOW A MAN FEELS WHEN HE'S MINDING HIS OWN BUSINESS IN ONE PLACE -- AND SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF ABDUCTED TO ANOTHER!
EXPLANATIONS WILL CHANGE NOTHING!
YOU WERE TAKEN FOR A PURPOSE!
THAT PURPOSE ALONE IS OF IMPORTANCE!


NOT TO ME, MAN! I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT HERE! IT HAPPENED TOO FAST! BUT YOU'RE GOING TO GET ME BACK--OR DIE!
SHOOT THEN! GO AHEAD!
POW! POW! POW!
WAKANDANS DON'T BLUFF!!
THAT'S EVIDENTLY TRUE!
BUT, AS YOU SEE, BULLETS CAN'T HARM ME!
H-HOW DID YOU SWITCH POSITIONS LIKE THAT? WHO ARE YOU?
I'M KIBER, OF COURSE... YOU'RE THE FIRST I'VE TOLD. I WONDER WHY?
BECAUSE IT BREAKS YOU UP, THAT'S WHY! WELL, I HOPE THIS DOES THE SAME!
THEN...
BY THE SACRED CULT--!
DOES THIS SURPRISE YOU?
I CAN SHOW YOU MORE OF MY TALENTS! YOU SEEM TO FIND ME AMUSING!
GET BACK! DON'T TOUCH ME!

AS KIBER'S HANDS MAKE CONTACT WITH KHANATA...
SSKTCH!
IT WOULD DEFEAT MY PURPOSE TO DESTROY YOU! BUT, YOU MUST BE AWARE THAT I CAN!
WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
WHY WAS I BROUGHT HERE?!
BECAUSE I NEED YOU! I NEED MANY MORE LIKE YOU TO SUSTAIN MY POWER!
BUT YOUR NUMBER WILL GROW IN TIME--AND SO WILL THE STRENGTH OF KIBER!
THINK HOW STRONG I SHALL BE WHEN I CAN GATHER YOU UP IN DROVES AND BRING YOU HERE!
YOU SEE, POWER IS LIFE ITSELF TO ME! MY VERY REASON FOR BEING DEPENDS ON IT!
IT'S AN OLD STORY! YOU NEED AN ARMY OF SLAVES TO HELP YOUR FATTEN YOUR EGO!
YOU'LL LEARN MORE WHEN YOU JOIN THE OTHERS!
I'LL NEVER CRACK, KIBER! NEVER!

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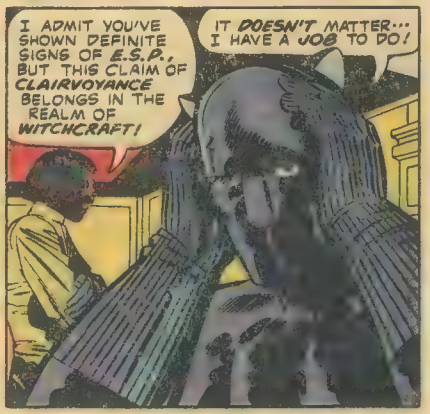
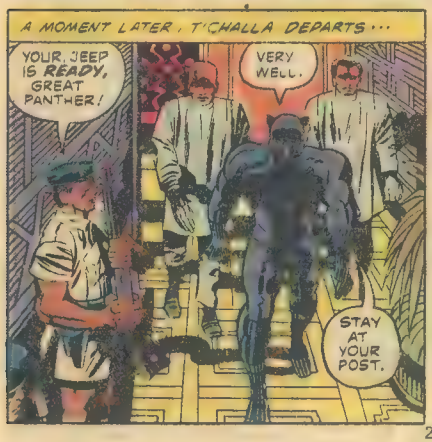
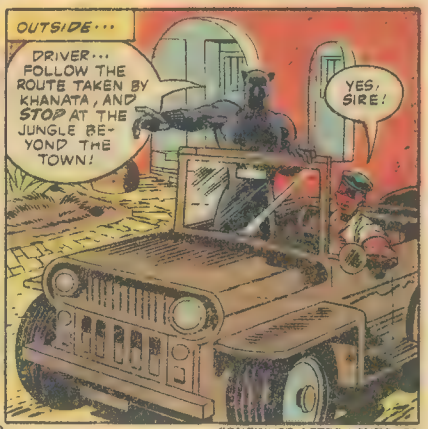
THE NEXT MOMENT, KHANATA PLUMMETS DOWN A DEEP CHUTE...
OH, MY GOD! HERE COMES ANOTHER POOR FISH!
"FODDER" IS A BETTER WORD--!
HE STILL HAS SOME FIGHT LEFT IN HIM!
THAT WILL SOON PASS!
YOU MEN LOOK BEATEN... WHAT'S KIBER DONE TO YOU?!
MEANWHILE...
THE PERIOD OF WEAKNESS HAS COME AND GONE, JOSHUA. I'M MUCH STRONGER NOW... AND YOU KNOW I MUST--!
I KNOW WHAT I MUST DO! NOW LIE STILL, T'CHALLA!
THE UNPREDICTABLE EFFECT OF VIBRANIUM EXPOSURE ON THE BODY IS A SERIOUS MATTER, EXCEPT FOR YOUR SUDDENLY ACQUIRED MENTAL GIFTS, YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION REMAINS IMPROVED...
AM I FIT TO CARRY OUT MY DUTIES? TELL ME-- TELL ME--!!

AS YOUR DOCTOR, I'D RECOMMEND ANOTHER MONTH'S REST... BUT, AS A WAKANDAN, I CAN'T DENY YOUR WISH! COME IN ORDERLIES!
GOOD MAN, JOSHUA. YOU HAD THEM BRING MY COSTUME... I THANK YOU FOR THAT!

YOUR SENSE OF TRADITION IS AS FIRM AS MY OWN! WHEN A MEMBER OF THE RULING FAMILY RUNS INTO TROUBLE, THE BLACK PANTHER HIMSELF MUST TAKE CHARGE!
I UNDERSTAND, T'CHALLA. BUT I, TOO, HAVE MY DUTIES!
I'VE GOT TO FIND KHANATA!
WHAT I'VE DONE IS WRONG!


I ADMIT YOU'VE SHOWN DEFINITE SIGNS OF E.S.P., BUT THIS CLAIM OF CLAIRVOYANCE BELONGS IN THE REALM OF WITCHCRAFT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER... I HAVE A JOB TO DO!





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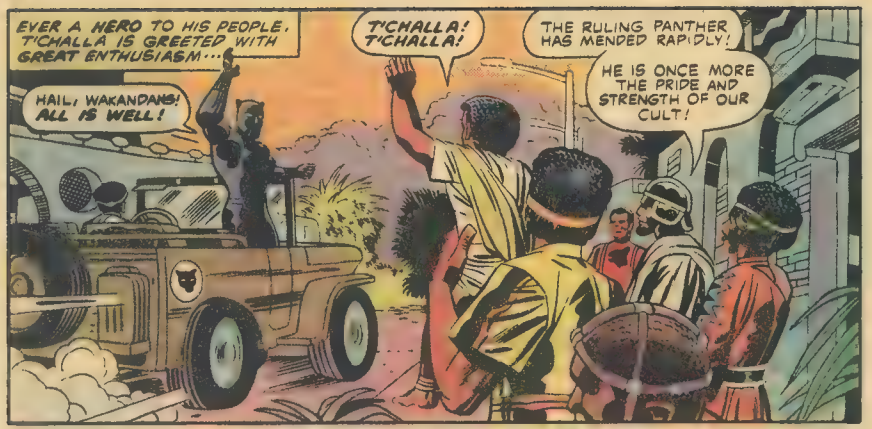
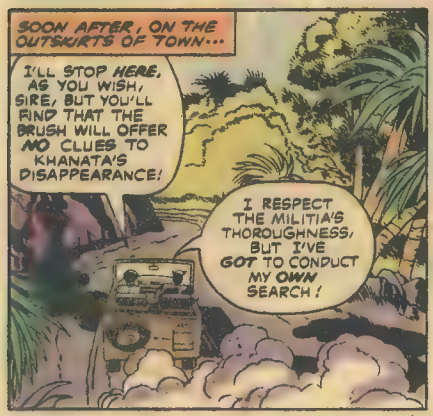
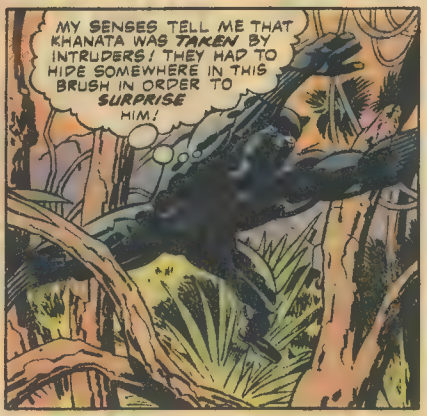
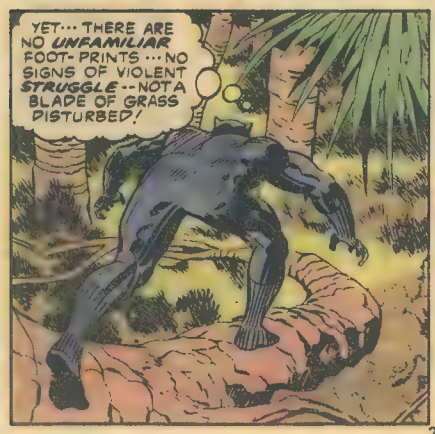
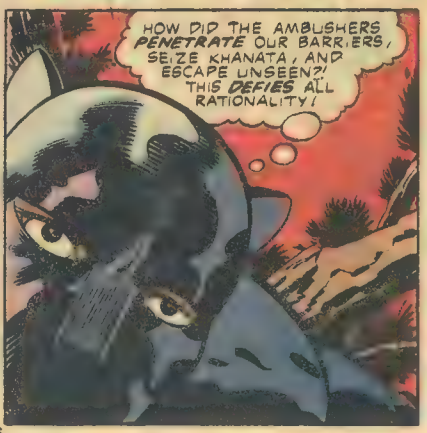

EVER A HERO TO HIS PEOPLE, T'CHALLA IS GREETED WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM...
HAIL, WAKANDANS! ALL IS WELL!
T'CHALLA! T'CHALLA!
THE RULING PANTHER HAS MENDED RAPIDLY!
HE IS ONCE MORE THE PRIDE AND STRENGTH OF OUR CULT!


SOON AFTER, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...
I'LL STOP HERE, AS YOU WISH, SIRE, BUT YOU'LL FIND THAT THE BRUSH WILL OFFER NO CLUES TO KHANATA'S DISAPPEARANCE!
I RESPECT THE MILITIA'S THOROUGHNESS, BUT I'VE GOT TO CONDUCT MY OWN SEARCH!


MY SENSES TELL ME THAT KHANATA WAS TAKEN BY INTRUDERS! THEY HAD TO HIDE SOMEWHERE IN THIS BRUSH IN ORDER TO SURPRISE HIM!


YET... THERE ARE NO UNFAMILIAR FOOT-PRINTS... NO SIGNS OF VIOLENT STRUGGLE--NOT A BLADE OF GRASS DISTURBED!


HOW DID THE AMBUSHERS PENETRATE OUR BARRIERS, SEIZE KHANATA, AND ESCAPE UNSEEN?! THIS DEFIES ALL RATIONALITY!

MEANWHILE, AT AN UNKNOWN LOCATION···
KIBER'S HUNTING DOGS-- THEY'RE AFTER ONE OF US!
WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO?
NOT ME! DON'T TAKE ME!
SUDDENLY···
LET HIM GO, YOU DEVILS!
THEY'VE CHOSEN THE KID!
NO! NO!!
PLEASE! PLEASE! I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT THERE!
YOU CAN'T DRAG HIM OFF AGAINST HIS WILL!
IT'S USELESS TO FIGHT THEM!
I-I CAN'T HANDLE HIM ALONE! GIVE ME A HAND, YOU MEN! WE CAN TAKE HIM TOGETHER!
WHAK!
DON'T RESIST! WE TRIED IT AND FAILED!

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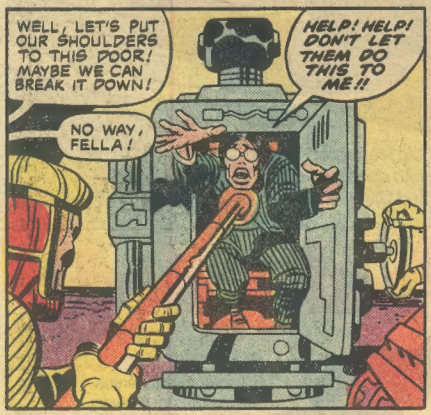
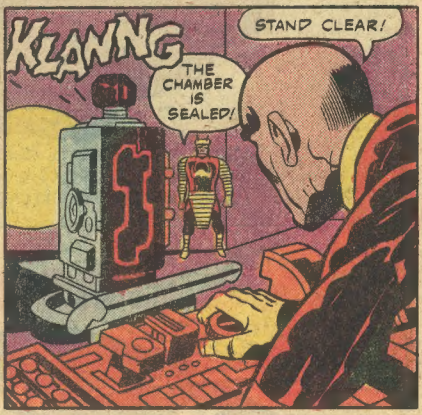
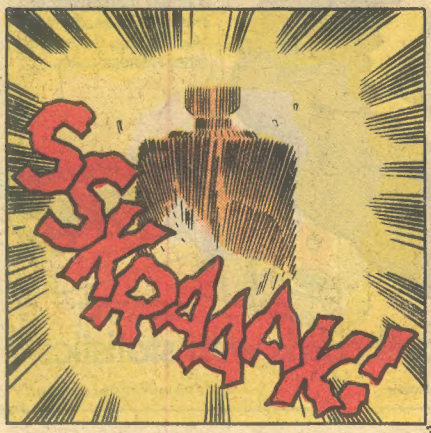
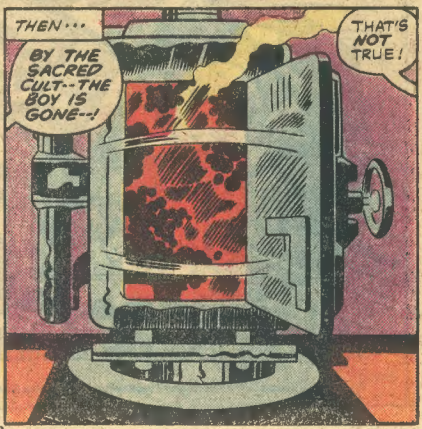
A UNITED EFFORT CAN BEAT THEM! BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW! THEY'VE GOT THAT YOUNG MAN!
COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY THAT IT WASN'T YOU!

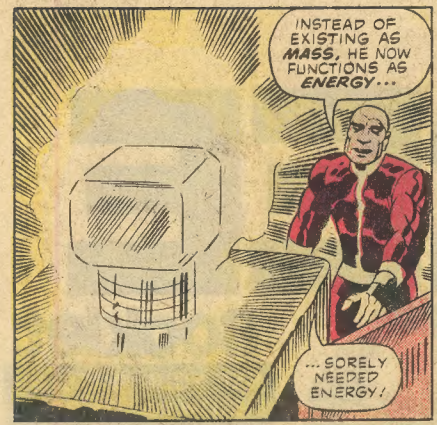
THEY'RE FORCING HIM INTO SOME SORT OF STEEL CABINET! WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM?
DON'T LOOK! IT ISN'T PRETTY!


WELL, LET'S PUT OUR SHOULDERS TO THIS DOOR! MAYBE WE CAN BREAK IT DOWN!
HELP! HELP! DON'T LET THEM DO THIS TO ME!!
NO WAY, FELLA!


KLANNG
STAND CLEAR!
THE CHAMBER IS SEALED!


SSKRAAAK!


THEN...
BY THE SACRED CULT--THE BOY IS GONE--!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!



THIS IS WHERE IT HAPPENED --AT THE BASE OF PANTHER MOUNTAIN--!
THE INTRUDERS CAME THROUGH THIS MASS OF ROCK--AND LEFT THE SAME WAY!!

FANTASTIC, YOU SAY!? WELL, YOU'VE STILL GOT TO READ--

THE KIBER CLUE

COMING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE, ON SALE AUG. 18!

PANTHER POST SCRIPTS

c/o P. O. BOX 4943, THOUSAND OAKS, CA. 91360

Panther People,

I think you guys are doing a great job with the Black Panther in his own mag. Since his first issue, starring Mr. Little and King Solomon's frog, I've been with T'Challa. He has become my favorite hero (this side of Captain America and his mighty shield) without super powers.

Keep up the good work, Jack—and may the FORCE be with you!

Donald Fine
1638 East 48th Place
Los Angeles, CA 90011

Dear Jack Kirby,

Let it be known that I seldom ever purchased my own copy of CAPTAIN AMERICA or THE BLACK PANTHER, viewing the one as a nostalgic throwback relevant to someone else's culture, and the other as not worth the price of the ink and paper. But I haven't missed an ish since you've returned, Jack—cash happily laid out in the midst of the 13-year-olds (I'm 32).

Ironically, my work is art and words—both critical and expository— yet I'll make this brief. I'm moved to illness by the recent letters concerning the editorial direction of the Panther. I buy for style and creativity. The vehicle is entirely the discretion of the artist. Tradition has no special integrity and the history of art is littered with battle royals for the status quo. If the art form becomes hackneyed and insensitive then it's boring. To argue that the "cosmic scale" is an inappropriate vehicle essentially obscures the real issues of creative consciousness. Place the Panther when and where you will, but keep it up.

Rich Leslie
P.O. Box 604
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Your support is sincerely appreciated, Rich—and we'll chalk another one up for your side (which just coincidentally happens to be our side and Jack's side, as well)!

Muchas gracias, Rich!

Dear Jack Kirby,

THE BLACK PANTHER is the finest comic book you have ever written— save for the late ETERNALS. Jack, you are making this book a lot more character-oriented than you ever made CAPTAIN AMERICA, probably due to the fact that Cap is an institution. Also, 2001 and the ETERNALS are more concept oriented than is BLACK PANTHER.

I would like to congratulate Jack Kirby for presenting us with the past eight issues, for they were the finest issues to date by the King on any one title. I feel that the supporting cast is the equal of that in any other Marvel book. I hope to see Mr. Little again, for he is extremely fascinating. Exploring the history of the Panther Cult is quite interesting. The cosmic origins have long been overlooked. However, I hope the story does not lead us back again to ancient astronauts, pyramids and such. I believe the vibranium mound is connected to the type of cosmic energy which transformed the Fantastic Four due to the similarities between Jakarra and Ben Grimm, the Thing.

Some say that your Panther and the one appearing in the AVENGERS are almost two different people. But doesn't everyone act differently when in a group as compared with their being alone? Also, why should the Panther discuss his doings of cosmic importance to guys who are basically super-heroes. After all, I look at the Panther as something other than a super-hero, for he had to prove himself, despite being born to the blood of the Panther Cult.

Finally, Jack, your artwork is ten times better on this book then I ever remember seeing it before elsewhere.

Mark Ryan
10236 Monarch Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63136

Dear Jack,

BLACK PANTHER #8 was out of sight. Mike Royer (inks/letters) and Glynis Wein (colors) did up one fine job in their departments. "Panthers or Pussycats?" was excellent. This was the first time anyone introduced T'Challa's family in a Black Panther saga. I like the way you showed how T'Challa became the Black Panther. Scarpe wasn't the worst character that you've ever come up with. Perhaps in future issues he will improve. The Panther's family members, on the other hand, were very interesting—and in future issues maybe you could tell us something about each of their individual backgrounds.

Charles David Haskell
15 West 139th St 4D
New York, NY 10037

Don't be surprised if that's just exactly what King Kirby has in mind, Charlie! Stick around and see—we've got some sensational stories planned for the next several issues!

Be here for BLACK PANTHER #12—or you'll be sorry!

HEADS UP PEOPLE!
HERE COMES
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
THRILL TO THE ADVENTURES OF THE SCARLET SWASHBUCKLER WHO DWELLS IN ETERNAL DARKNESS.
ON SALE EVERY OTHER MONTH!

BLACK PANTHER

scanned by *Wizard*